

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 VO-03 INSE-00 L-03

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R 182217Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3657

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CI

SUBJECT: PAROLE OF CHILEAN REFUGEES AND DETAINEES

REF: A) STATE 137514 B) SANTIAGO 3905

1. SUMMARY: ICEM HAS NO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH OPERATING PROCEDURES DESCRIBED REF A. QUESTION ARISES OF WHO WILL PAY TRAVEL COSTS OF DETAINEE AND FAMILY TO US. GUIDANCE REQUESTED. VISITING ICEM REPRESENTATIVE, MEANWHILE, OBTAINED CURRENT GOC ESTIMATES OF HOW MANY DETAINEES MAY EVENTUALLY BE RELEASED. PROGRAM HAS BEEN GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY IN CHILE, AIJRWE HAVE PRELIMINARY INDICATION DETAINEES WILL BE INTERESTED IN APPLYING. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFFS MET WITH ICEM REPS JUNE 17 TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR OPERATION OF PAROLE PROGRAM FOR CHILEAN DETAINEES. MEMCON BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC, S/ORM, SCA/VO, LIMA AND US MISSION GENEVA. ICEM CONCERNED OVER WHO WILL PAY AIR FARE COSTS OF DETAINEE AND ACCOMPANYING IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS TO US, NOTING THAT MOST COOPERATING GOVERNMENTS ABSORB THIS COST THEMSELVES. EMBOFFS STATED WE HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT, BUT OUR INITIAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT USG WILL NOT RPT NOT PAY THESE COSTS. ICEM SANTIAGO IS PLANNING TO QUERY ITS HEADQUARTERS ON THIS POINT. AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE,
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ICEM REPS RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT DETAINEE COULD SIGN A

PROMISSORY NOTE WITH SPONSORING US VOLAG, WITH VOLAG INITIALLY PAYING AIR FARE.

3. BOTH EMBOFFS AND ICEM REPS FORESEE SOME MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WITH OBTAINING COMPLETE CIVIL DOCUMENTATION AND WITH PERFORMING MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT, WITH EXPERIENCE, THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT BE INSURMOUNTABLE.

4. IN SEPARATE MEETING JUNE 17, ICEM DEPUTY DIRECTOR MASELLI WHO TEMPORARILY VISITING CHILE ANNOUNCED TO REPS OF COOPERATING SANTIAGO EMBASSIES THAT GOC INTERIOR MINISTER BENAVIDES HAD TOLD HIM THERE ARE PRESENTLY APPROXIMATELY 190 CATEGORY I DETAINEES (PERSONS HELD WITHOUT CHARGE UNDER STATE OF SIEGE AUTHORITY) AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT ABROAD. ACCORDING TO MASELLI, THIS IS ESSENTIALLY THE FINAL TOTAL FOR THIS CATEGORY, WITH GOC EXPECTED TO ADD ONLY A "HANDFUL" TO THAT FIGURE.

5. ACCORDING TO MASELLI, BENAVIDES SAID THERE ARE PRESENTLY SOME 2,300 CATEGORY III PERSONS (TRIED AND SENTENCED) AND APPROXIMATELY 700 CATEGORY II (UNDER TRIAL). AS THESE 700 ARE TRIED AND CONVICTED, BENAVIDES EXPECTS TOTAL IN CATEGORY III TO RISE TO 2,800. OF THIS NUMBER, HE EXPECTS BETWEEN 1,500 AND 2,000 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PLACEMENT ABROAD. TO DATE, SOME 300 CATEGORY III PERSONS HAVE APPLIED FOR COMMUTATION OF THEIR SENTENCES INTO EXILE VIA THE DECREE 504 PROCEDURE (SANTIAGO 3247). THE COMMUTATION COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THAT DECREE HAS ALREADY CONSIDERED 92 OF THESE CASES, BUT APPARENTLY NONE HAS YET BEEN OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED BY THE GOC AS ELIGIBLE FOR RELEASE INTO EXILE. ICEM, HOWEVER, EXPECTS THE FIRST OF THESE CASES TO BE SO CERTIFIED MOMENTARILY.

6. IN JUNE 17 CONVERSATION ON HIS MISSION'S EXPERIENCE WITH DETAINEES, DANISH CHARGE STRONGLY ADVISED US TO USE EXPERIENCED SCREENING PERSONNEL IN THE INTERVIEWS WITH CHILEAN DETAINEES. IN DANISH CASE, SOME DETAINEES HAD WILLFULLY MISREPRESENTED MATERIAL FACTS, AND INEXPERIENCED INTERVIEWERS HAD BEEN HOODWINKED, WHEREAS IMMIGRATION OFFICERS ACCUSTOMED TO EXAMINE IMMIGRANTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN. OBVERSE OF THIS IS CANADIAN EMBASSY EXPERIENCE, WHICH HAS BEEN GENERALLY GOOD AND WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USES IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND NOT EXTAFF PERSONNEL. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND INS PERSONNEL NOT AVAILABLE FOR OUR OPERATION, BUT WISH TO NOTE THE POINT.

7. JUNE 18 MASELLI AND ICEM SANTIAGO PERMREP KOZAK CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AT THEIR REQUEST FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NEW PAROLE PROGRAM. WE WENT OVER MAIN ELEMENTS. THERE WERE NO CONCEPTUAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT VISITORS TOOK OCCASION TO

EMPHASIZE, AS KOZAK HAD PREVIOUSLY DONE, ICEM'S PERENNIAL SHORTAGE OF FUNDS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CUT IN THIS YEAR'S US CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM (SANTIAGO 3465). WE SAID WE WOULD REFER POINT TO DEPARTMENT.

8. MASELLI REMARKED THAT HE HAD JUST VISITED TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER, WHERE GOC DETAINS INDIVIDUALS IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE FOR EARLY RELEASE FOR EXILE. SAID HE HAD FOUND VIVID INTEREST IN US PROGRAM AMONG DETAINEES. THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD AS TO HOW MANY OF THEM MIGHT BE WILLING TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION TO THE US. WIDE AND DETAILED PUBLICITY LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN PROGRAM WILL DOUBTLESS BE A FACTOR.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON FUNDING OF TRAVEL COSTS FOR DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES GOING TO US. POPPER

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